

In the South-West, the Little Pied Cormorant usually constructs its nest, a platform of sticks, in a tree growing in a swamp in water (D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell, *The Birds of Western Australia*, 1962; 113). W. R. B. Oliver (*New Zealand Birds*, 1955; 202-6) states that the species usually selects trees overhanging the water in rivers, estuaries, sheltered inlets and on small outlying islands. The species also nests in mangroves along the coast. K. A. Hindwood and A. R. McGill (*The Birds of Sydney*, 1958, 28) list it as having nested in such situations at Botany Bay, and P. Fuller (*pers. comm.*) informs us that it regularly nests in the mangroves near Carnarvon.

—J. R. FORD, E. H. and L. SEDGWICK.

Southward Extension of the Range of the Blue-and-White Wren and the Crested Bell-bird.—In their paper, "The Birds of the Moore River Gorge Country" (*W.A. Nat.*, 3, 1952: 107), W. H. Loaring and D. L. Serventy remarked that the status of the Blue-and-White Wren (*Malurus leuconotus*) appeared to have remained unchanged in the area since the earlier survey of F. L. Whitlock in 1903, though this species had made a notable advance southward nearer the coast. The Crested Bell-bird (*Oreoica gutturalis*) was mentioned in the list of species which have pushed farther into the South-West since 1903 or have increased in abundance, on the basis of Whitlock's assessment. In *Birds of Western Australia* (Serventy & Whittell, 3rd edn., 1962) the distribution of the Blue-and-White Wren is given as southwards to a line joining Mogumber, Corrigin and Norseman, with a broken distribution on the coastal plain south to Perth. Of the Crested Bell-bird these authors state that although it is not usually found in the South-West corner, south and west of Mogumber and the Great Southern Railway, in 1954 the species was observed at Beermullah, and in August 1957 H. A. Atkinson and J. R. Ford recorded it six miles north of Yanehep.

On October 18, 1962, following the report of an unknown bird from Mr. Graham Aleorn, I visited an area $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of the southern end of Lake Pinjar, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles eastwards in a direct line from the coast. Here I saw a small party of Blue-and-White Wrens—a male in full plumage and two or three brown birds. The country had been cleared by the Forestry Department for a pine plantation and was fundamentally sandplain with dead stumps and low shrubs.

On November 23, 1962, I visited the area again, still on the trail of the bird described by Mr. Aleorn, and this time I found a Crested Bell-bird, a male in full song, which was almost certainly the unknown bird.

Dr. D. L. Serventy informs me that in 1960 Mr. R. H. Taylor of Kalamunda saw a male Crested Bell-bird one mile north of the Gngagara pine plantation, that is about 8 miles further south-west again.

These records are the furthest south of the Crested Bell-bird, and the furthest inland observation of the Blue-and-White Wren along

the coastal strip (apart from the estuarine occurrences along the Swan River), and are indicative of an expansion of range. It would be interesting to find out what is happening in the area south and south-west of Mogumber. It would appear that like the Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) and other species mentioned by Serventy & Whittell (*ibid.*, p. 60) these Eyrean species are steadily advancing into the South-West corner.

—D. A. ROOK, Nedlands.

Wire Nests of Magpies.—Magpie nests constructed largely of pieces of wire are not infrequently reported and two Western Australian examples have been described in some detail (C. S. Hamilton, *Gould League Notes*, 1949-50: 25; D. L. Serventy, *W.A. Nat.*, 2, 1949: 46). It may be of interest to provide details of two other such nests which I have recently examined.

Nest no. 1: Constructed of wire, twigs, dried and denuded buffalo grass runners, and fine rootlets. There were 73 pieces of wire and they varied in length from 5 in. to 7 ft. 2 in. Most of the wire was less than 2.0 mm. in thickness but a few pieces were between 2.0 and 3.0 mm., and one 25 in. length of clothesline wire weighed 40.5 gm. One piece of wire 3 ft. 4 in. long had the ends joined and was in the approximate shape of a square. There were several lengths of plastic insulated wire, in red, yellow, white and brown colours, and rubber insulated wire in black and red colours. Interlaced with the wire were 14 twigs of varying thickness. The largest was 15 in. and the shortest was 7 in. The 134 pieces of buffalo grass varied from 5 in. in length to 6 ft. 2 in. in length and were woven in the shape of a circular bowl. Entwined with the grass were 10 thin twigs between 6 and 12 in. long. Approximately 100 small pieces of very fine rootlets and one small piece of bark furnished the lining to the nest. Lengths of wire joined or twisted together have been counted as one. The nest had been built in 1962 in a eucalypt growing in a park at Claremont.

Nest no. 2: Constructed of wire, rope, leaves and dried grass. The wire, which was of various thicknesses and lengths, weighed a total of 4.14 kilograms. There was a total of 321 pieces of wire, particulars of which are as follows:—

(a) wire 1.0 to 2.0 mm. thick—129 pieces. The longest piece was 7 ft. and the shortest 3 in.

(b) wire 2.0 to 2.5 mm. thick—47 pieces. The longest piece was 28 in. and the shortest 3.5 in.

(c) wire 2.5 to 3.0 mm. thick—136 lengths. The longest piece was 31 in. and the shortest 4 in.

(d) wire 3.0 to 3.5 mm. thick—3 pieces, the longest being 18 in. and the shortest 10.5 in.

(e) wire 3.5 to 4.0 mm. thick—4 pieces. The longest which weighed 33.5 gm., was 18 in. and the shortest 15.5 in.

(f) one piece of barbed fencing wire 16 in. in length.

(g) one piece of three-strand wire 18 in. in length.